**Comments of the Netherlands on the Guidelines for the Examination of State Aid to the Fishery and Aquaculture Sector**

The Dutch authorities would like to express their gratitude for the opportunity to comment on the Guidelines for the Examination of State Aid to the Fishery and Aquaculture Sector.

It may be rather forward, but the Dutch authorities would like to propose a different title for the guidelines. The term "examination" is translated in Dutch as "onderzoek" which has the same meaning as "research". This might be confusing, therefore, we would like to propose a title similar to titles of other guidelines: *Guidelines for State Aid in the Fishery and Aquaculture Sector.*

At previous occasions, the Dutch authorities have brought to your attention that several EMFF measures are not covered by FIBER. This is also the case with the draft guidelines, e.g. control measures are excluded. The Dutch authorities feel that it is very important that the EMFF measures are in line with the rules for state aid in the fishery and aquaculture sector.

In FIBER and these draft guidelines (point 67), the State Aid Website is introduced. In assistance to the member states, DG competition is developing a website that can be used by the member states to fulfil this obligation. Is this initiative supported by DG mare? In other words: will it be possible to use the website developed by DG competition for state aid measures in the fishery and aquaculture, or do member states have to develop their own websites?

Paragraph 4.1 is about state aid to compensate damage caused by natural disasters and exceptional occurrences. The notions of natural disasters and exceptional occurrences must be interpreted restrictively. Examples are severe storms and floods or war and internal disturbances. Due to the restrictive interpretation, the Dutch authorities would like to add a category, namely environmental disasters.

The Dutch authorities would appreciate it if you would take these comments into consideration.